

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (currently amended) A perpendicular magnetic recording disk for use in perpendicular magnetic recording, said perpendicular magnetic recording disk characterized by comprising a substrate, a soft magnetic layer of a material selected from a group consisting of an Fe-based material and a Co-based material on said substrate, a ferromagnetic layer on said soft magnetic layer, having a granular structure, and comprising crystal grains mainly made of cobalt (Co) and grain boundary portions mainly made of a material selected from a group consisting of an oxide, silicon (Si), ~~or~~ and an oxide of silicon (Si), and a ~~stacked layer~~ layer, on said ferromagnetic layer, comprising a material selected from a group consisting of CoCrPt, CoPt, CoPd, FePt, CoPt₃, and CoPd₃ and having a first layer comprising cobalt (Co) or a Co alloy and a second layer comprising palladium (Pd) or platinum (Pt), the content of the silicon (Si) in said ferromagnetic layer being 6at% or more.

2. - 3. (canceled).

4. (previously presented) A perpendicular magnetic recording disk according to claim 1, characterized in that the content of the silicon (Si) in said ferromagnetic layer is 8at% to 15at%.

5. (currently amended) A perpendicular magnetic recording disk according to claim 1, characterized in that a spacer layer is provided between said ferromagnetic layer and said ~~stacked~~ layer comprising a material selected from a group consisting of CoCrPt, CoPt, CoPd, FePt, CoPt₃, and CoPd₃.

6. (currently amended) A method of manufacturing a perpendicular magnetic recording disk for use in perpendicular magnetic recording and having at least a soft magnetic layer of a material selected from a group consisting of an Fe-based material and a Co-based material on a substrate and a magnetic recording layer on said soft magnetic layer, said method characterized by,

in a step of forming said magnetic recording layer comprising, on said soft magnetic

layer, a ferromagnetic layer of a granular structure comprising silicon (Si) or an oxide of silicon (Si) between crystal grains comprising cobalt (Co), the content of the silicon (Si) in said ferromagnetic layer being 6at% or more, and a ~~stacked~~ layer, on said ferromagnetic layer, comprising a material selected from a group consisting of CoCrPt, CoPt, CoPd, FePt, CoPt₃, and CoPd₃; having a first layer comprising Co or a Co alloy and a second layer comprising palladium (Pd) or platinum (Pt), forming said ferromagnetic layer on said soft magnetic layer by sputtering in an argon gas atmosphere and then forming said ~~stacked~~ layer comprising the material selected from the group consisting of CoCrPt, CoPt, CoPd, FePt, CoPt₃, and CoPd₃ by sputtering in an argon gas atmosphere at a gas pressure lower than a gas pressure used when forming said ferromagnetic layer.

7. - 8. (canceled)

9. (currently amended) A perpendicular magnetic recording disk according to claim ~~3~~ 4, characterized in that a spacer layer is provided between said ferromagnetic layer and said ~~stacked~~ layer comprising a material selected from a group consisting of CoCrPt, CoPt, CoPd, FePt, CoPt₃, and CoPd₃.

10. (new) A perpendicular magnetic recording disk according to claim 5, characterized in that said spacer layer is selected from a group consisting of a Pd layer and a Pt layer.